

the whole inside was a mass of flames when first discovered. In less than half an hour the whole structure was a mass of ruined machinery. The entire loss is estimated at more than \$10,000.

The two turbine drive wheels are still in the water deck in regular arrangement. This mill has been the main stand by for the neighborhood for a period of about sixty years. - *From Times - by Roscoe Brown of Greenbank*

* Patrick Bruffey, who erected the mill on this site in 1825 was a very useful and prominent citizen; a skilled workman in stone, iron and wood, and filled most of the official positions in the gift of the county.

* John Jordan, the ancestor of the relationship of that name in lower Pocahontas, was a very worthy native of Ireland. By occupation he was a tailor, and when he once met a fellow member of the craft after a prolonged separation his friend was very demonstrative in the pleasure the meeting afforded him. In his joyful exhilaration he struck his friend Jordan on the back of his hand with a side blow of his own. This friendly lick was so powerful as to inflict a bruise so serious in its effects as to necessitate amputation of the arm just below the elbow. Nevertheless he learned to use a hoe or ax to a good purpose in after life. He came to this region as a traveling merchant, dealing in Irish linens and other portable merchandise. He was a "hard money" man in his financial preferences, and converted all paper money he received into silver and gold. Miss Miriam McNeel, daughter of John McNeel the pioneer, found out in some way that the young merchant had about a half bushel of coin, and it seemed to occur to her mind that if a person disabled as he was could make that much money,

he could certainly take good care of her. To the surprise of her friends that a nice sensible girl as she was should fancy a cripple, but she did not discourage the attentions of the hustling young Irishman, and they were married. At that period in our local history a young mans recommendation was his ability to clear land, split rails, and grub stumps, but to marry a cripple in store clothes was not to be thought of.

After their marriage Mr. Jordan continued to prosper in making a living, and purchased some servants to wait on the girl that had made such a surprising venture as to marry him. He settled on Millstone Run and opened up a fine farm. There were five sons and three daughters.

THE MCNEEL MILL

The McNeel mill at Millpoint was built about eighty years ago by Isaac McNeel. Mr. McNeel owned the mill until his death, after which time it belonged to his son Dr. Winters McNeel of Hillsboro. On July 8th. I visited this mill and was told by the present proprietor G. N. Dalton that this mill had ~~always~~ been in operation practically every week day since its erection 80 years ago. He said that he had visitors from many states and that they believed it to be the only remaining frame key building in the world. I am not authority enough on the mills of the world to say if this is correct, but it is probably the only one in the county. At any rate the frame work is put together without nails, and is so well built that after 80 years there is not a give in the building, but it stands there as solid as if built only yesterday. This mill grinds both corn and wheat. Throughout the years it had ground unbleached flour, the only mill in the county that did not

Output } It is at Danmore grinds unbleached flour

have a bleacher. Mr Dalton says that he has been told by authorities that it is the only known mill grinding unbleached flour.

However, in April 1940 a bleacher was installed, but he says that many people of the vicinity still prefer the unbleached flour and that he grinds about four barrels per month. Bread made from the unbleached flour is said not only to be more delicious but is also more healthful as bleaching takes out all of the oils. Mr. Dalton runs the mill for Mr. McNeel on a percentage bases, and he tells me that he is busy most of the time grinding flour, meal, and feed. The original water wheel was a wooden overshot wheel, but was replaced several years ago by a metal wheel.

There has been a mill at Millpoint ever since the one erected by Valentine Cackley, Sr. in 1800, and it has always been a paying business as there are so many good farms in the surrounding country side and much stock is also raised, therefore feed is always in demand. Both the Cackley mills were located a short distance down stream from the McNeel mill.

Wooden overshot water wheels wear out; they would get heavy on the shady side. The shrewd salesman from the north would then show the advantage of the steel fabricated water wheel and of the turbine. Take an artfully constructed water wheel out of commission and it is surprising how quickly it went to pieces.

Now while a mountain man who is worth his salt and tobacco can still take an axe and make a grist mill complete, big or little, as his present need may require, I must admit that we quit training up skilled, professional mill wrights a generation back, about the time we let ourselves get out of bear dogs.

WILLIAMS MILL

However, a mill run by an overshot wooden water wheel is still to be found in Pocahontas. It was made and is still owned by Squire G. M. Williams of Bruffeys Creek. Some years ago for his own convenience and that of his neighbors he rigged himself up a grist mill. He worked rainy days and made himself a water wheel fifteen feet in diameter, out of wood. It makes around eight revolutions per minute. For a spindle he used the drive shaft of a tractor steam engine, gear and all. He dammed Bruffeys Creek to put the water in a sluiceway he dug around the hillside. For corn rocks he had the choice of French burrs or a pair of millstones made from Allegheny pebblestone out of the old Smith Mill on Greenbrier River above Seebert. The squire says the Allegheny stone is far superior to the much vaunted French burrs, as the Allegheny stone does not wear like other burrs, and so do not require dressing up so often. A Mr. Couch, railroad man and utility magnate from the Ozark region of Arkansas, wishes to make a grist mill run with an overshot water wheel; all home made. So, He sent three young men to Pocahontas to see what we had in the way of mills of this type. The Williams mill was visited and measurements and pictures taken.

They also visited the old Beard mill on Locust Creek, now owned by Sydney McCoy. (Read-Pocahontas Times, July 4, 1940 under item "Milling Around" for part of the above material.)

I visited the tannery of Benton Smith at Millpoint only a few days after Mr. Price and the three Arkansas travelers were there. I wanted to get the names of all the Smiths who had been tanners. He says that the first Smith of his family, so far as he